

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C03C 25/06, B60K 15/03, B65D 1/00, 6/34	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/03792 (43) International Publication Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/14775

(22) International Filing Date: 16 July 1998 (16.07.98)

(30) Priority Data:
08/895,918 17 July 1997 (17.07.97) US(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application
US 08/895,918 (CIP)
Filed on 17 July 1997 (17.07.97)

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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: METHODS OF MAKING HIGH-TEMPERATURE GLASS FIBER AND THERMAL PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES

(57) Abstract

A glass fiber capable of withstanding temperatures in excess of 1900 °F (1038 °C) is produced by treating a glass, preferably E-glass, fiber. The glass fiber is first leached with selected acids, and then the leached fiber is treated with organo-metallic materials of low viscosity, such as a dispersion of low molecular weight water-in-oil emulsion of dimethyl polysiloxane. The fiber is used in such applications as embedding it in a fire-resistant active coating material or embedding it into one surface of a polyolefin or composite plastic, such as a polypropylene sheet. The treated fiberglass can be used as a sole component or in concert with a fire-resistant or fire retardant material to further enhance its fire-resistant properties. Other fire-resistant composite materials are formed by precoating a fabric (1) with an active (intumescent or subliming) material (3), then embedding the precoated fabric (5) into a surface of a preferably thermoplastic sheet substrate (11). The precoated fabric is preferably adhered to or embedded in the surface of the substrate simultaneously with a molding process which forms the composite into a shape such as an automotive container like a fuel tank or trunk base. Other composites (21) are formed by adhering thermal protective structure (28) comprising a fabric (29) precoated with an active thermal protective composition (31) to a structure (23, 25, 27, 33) formed from fibers coated with an adhesive.

